

Message Text

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TAGS: EEC, PFOR, EFIS, PLOS

SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JULY 27: HIGHLIGHTS

REFS: A) EC BRUSSELS 7291, B) EC BRUSSELS 7187

1. SUMMARY: IN ADDITION TO THEIR DISCUSSION OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DIRECT ELECTIONS (REPORTED SEPT-76), THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS, AT THEIR JULY 27 COUNCIL MEETING: 1) ADOPTED A DECLARATION OF INTENT TO ESTABLISH A 200 MILE FISHERIES ZONE AND 2) DEFINED JOINT POSITIONS FOR EC REPRESENTATIVES AT THE UNITED NATIONS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. 200 MILE FISHERIES ZONE:

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THE COUNCIL ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION OF INTENT

REGARDING PROBLEMS RAISED FOR THE COMMUNITY FISHING INDUSTRY
BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONES:

BEGIN QUOTE: THE COUNCIL NOTES AN INCREASING TREND
AMONGST COUNTRIES WITH LARGE-SCALE SEA FISHING INDUSTRIES
TO EXTEND UNILATERALLY THEIR FISHING ZONES TO 200 MILES,
WITHOUT AWAITING THE OUTCOME OF THE UNITED NATIONS CON-
FERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA. CERTAIN COUNTRIES WHICH
HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN FISHING IN COASTAL ZONES, PAR-
TICULARLY IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC, HAVE ALREADY EXTENDED
THE BOUNDARIES OF THEIR JURISDICTION OR TAKEN A DECISION
TO DO SO AS FROM 1 JANUARY 1977. THIS TREND IS
BOUND TO RESULT IN OVER-EXPLOITATION OF THE FISH STOCKS,
THUS JEOPARDIZING THE MAINTENANCE OF THE COMMUNITY'S
FISHING RESOURCES.

THE COUNCIL EXPRESSES ITS RESOLVE TO PROTECT THE
LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF COMMUNITY FISHERMEN.

THE COUNCIL, CONVINCED OF THE NECESSITY FOR THE
MEMBER STATES TO ACT JOINTLY:

- CONSIDERS THAT MEASURES MUST BE ADOPTED IN
ORDER TO DEAL WITH THIS SITUATION AND THAT THEY MUST
BE TAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE
THIRD CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE LAW OF
THE SEA: IT IS AWARE HOWEVER, THE TREND REFERRED
TO ABOVE COULD FORCE THE MEMBER STATES TO ACT AS SOON
AS CIRCUMSTANCES RENDER ACTION NECESSARY, I.E. BEFORE
THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE ARE BROUGHT TO A
CONCLUSION;
- TO THIS END, ADOPTS THE PRINCIPLE OF CONCERTED
ACTION UNDER WHICH MEMBER STATES WOULD BE LED TO EXTEND
THE LIMITS OF FISHING ZONES TO 200 MILES, FISHING
WITHIN THESE LIMITS BEING SUBJECT TO THE COMMON
FISHERIES POLICY OF THE COMMUNITY;
- AGREES TO DECIDE ON THE WAYS OF IMPLEMENTING
SUCH ACTION IN THE LIGHT OF THE OUTCOME OF THE NEXT
MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA AND
NOT LATER THAN 1 OCTOBER 1976." END QUOTE.

3. UN LOS CONFERENCE.

THE COUNCIL DEFINED JOINT POSITIONS TO BE SUB-
MITTED BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES AT THE UNITED
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NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA. ACCORDING
TO COUNCIL AND PERMREP SOURCES THE MINISTERS REACHED
AGREEMENT ON THE PRINCIPLE OF A 200 MILE EXCLUSIVE
ECONOMIC ZONE AND ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE CONTINENTAL
SHELF MIGHT EXTEND BEYOND 200 MILES. THEY AGREED AS
WELL, ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, ON THE NEED FOR AN
INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY AND ON A POSITION
OPPOSING THE DEVELOPMENT OF MONOPOLIES OR OF DOMINANT

NATIONAL POSITIONS IN THE EXPLOITATION OF SEABED
MINERALS. HINTON

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